# Public Safety Communications Commission



#### Inside this Issue:

 Federal Frequency Sharing

pg 1

- Winkleman Dome pg 2
- Upcoming Events Pg 3
- Winkleman Dome Construction

og 3

• Vernon Hill—Tribal Representative

pg 4

- WyoLink Status
  pg
- WyoLink Handbook
  Pg 4



We would like to thank you for your interest in Wyoming's PSCC. We welcome any questions, comments, or suggestions you may have to this publication. You may direct them to Bob Symons at 307.777.5065 or by email at bsymon@wyo.gov

# **Federal Frequency Sharing**

On February 5, 2009 the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Spectrum Planning Subcommittee (SPS) issued a Certification of Spectrum Support for Wyoming's State-owned P25 VHF Statewide Trunked Land Mobile Radio system – WyoLink. This is a joint certification, something NTIA is not used to, with both the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) co-sponsoring the certification request. The NTIA will continue to own the frequencies within the federal spectrum band, but will allow Wyoming to share the use of the frequencies.

Wyoming Public Safety Communications Commission and WyoLink would like to thank Chris Lewis, DOI Interoperability Program Manager; Jim Downes, DHS- Office of Emergency Communications; Ramon Gladden and Dave Campbell, DOI and DHS SPS representatives; and Dave Tenney and Don Spieghts, DHS Staff Support for all of their support and assistance on this Joint Certification

Chris Lewis stated, "Without the help, information and support from the State of Wyoming, we could not have accomplished the momentous document. As we, DOI, DHS and Wyoming, have worked hard to achieve true Interoperability, we have accomplished a paradigm shift for interoperability in how we, the Feds, can provide access to federal spectrum resources, to be used on a state wholly owned system."

"I am encouraged by the cooperation and coordination from our federal partners," Governor Dave Freudenthal said. "This action will result in improving public safety and communications among all law enforcement entities. Gaining this certification allows the state to take full advantage of the WyoLink system that we have worked so hard to establish."

Wyoming is required to obtain FCC licenses to operate on the federal frequencies. DOI and DHS shall obtain NTIA authorization to operate in this band through the Frequency Assignment Subcommittee (FAS). Before submitting applications to the FAS, DOI and DHS shall ensure that the State of Wyoming has FCC licenses for operations in this band. Wyoming has a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the DOI for frequency sharing and is currently working with DHS to finalize an MOU for frequency sharing.

WyoLink has been designed to use a minimum of five channels, one control channel and four audio channels, per site. Through the spectrum engineering and FCC licensing process, Wyo-Link was not able to acquire FCC licenses for all channels on all 57 sites. This spectrum sharing will allow WyoLink to use federal frequencies, along with FCC frequencies, at 16 radio sites for an operational capacity of five channels per site, one site will be operating on seven channels.

### Winkleman Dome

Cooperation between state officials and local tribal agencies means WyoLink is one step closer to providing vital public safety communications for the entire state. Officials from WyoLink, WYDOT and the Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone tribes worked together recently to get the Winkleman Dome tower built on tribal land.

The tower is one of 57 that will be built throughout the state as part of WyoLink, a statewide radio system that will enable agencies to communicate with each other in their own jurisdictions and with others statewide. The system will be used by agencies such as local law enforcement, first responders, the Wyoming Highway Patrol, WYDOT and other federal, state and local entities.

"We wanted to make sure there was good public safety communications coverage on the reservation," said Vernon Hill, Emergency Management coordinator for the Shoshone and Arapaho Tribes, of the recent cooperative effort. "This will enable everyone to communicate effectively." Cooperative efforts between organizations and governing bodies throughout the state are important in getting the WyoLink system up and running. "We approached the tribes and told them we would like to put a tower up there," said Robert Wilson, WYDOT Telecommunications program manager. "We said it would benefit everyone."

The tribes then helped expedite the paperwork. Hill said they contacted the Tribal Joint Business Council, which is comprised of the Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone councils, and explained the importance of getting the tower built. The Winkleman Dome site, which is outside of Riverton, also was crucial to the overall WyoLink system because the tower placed there will connect the other towers in that area together so there's no gap in service. "That site was selected because we needed a place halfway between Copper Mountain, which is near Shoshoni, and Windy Ridge, which is near Dubois," said Marty McCoy, WyoLink support manager. "Winkleman Dome is in the middle of the reservation."

Each of the new towers is wider at the bottom and narrower at the top, giving them more stability and better resistance against the elements. The towers are equipped with microwave dishes that are six to eight feet in diameter, and two-way radio antennas that are each 20-feet tall.

With the success of Winkleman Dome, Hill said tribal agencies are eager to continue the partnership with WyoLink for additional low-profile installations in the Wind River Canyon. Low-profile installations are communication devices that aren't as high or as visible as a regular 150-foot tower.

WyoLink, a state-funded initiative, came to fruition after almost a decade of study, support-building and design work. It's the product of a cooperative effort involving numerous local, state and federal agencies. Oversight is provided by the Public Safety Communications Commission, which is comprised of representatives from 17 agencies.

"In 2001, the state Legislature tasked WYDOT to lead the Public Safety Mobile Communication Plan effort, with the vital oversight of a steering committee from 12 organizations. This produced a shared statewide plan," said Wilson. "WYDOT's Telecom Program was then told to carry out the plan. WyoLink was established within Telecom in 2004."

Article submitted by Aimee Inama, Wyoming Department Of Transportation Public Affairs

Pictures provided by WYDOT



Volume 5, Issue 1 Page 3

# **Upcoming Events**

Calendar posted @ http://pscc.wyoming.gov

4/27/09 \* 5/26/09 \* 6/29/09 Project Team Meetings 10 am—12 pm

@ WYDOT Planning Building, 2nd Floor Training Room

This is a monthly meeting held by the WyoLink Project Manager and Motorola. The meeting gives an overview of the progress over the past month, what is taking place in the near future, and any problems or concerns that need to be addressed with WyoLink.

6/1/09—WyoLink Operations and Interoperable Executive Committee meetings—Riverton

6/2/09 - PSCC Meeting—Riverton

This is the quarterly general business meeting of the PSCC. Each committee gives a standing report; any concerns or problems are discussed and action taken, if needed. A progress report on the WyoLink project is also presented.

### **Winkleman Dome Construction**



PSCC Newsletter The goal of the PSCC Newsletter is to disseminate information to all agencies and individuals interested in the PSCC. To reduce printing and postage costs all issues will be in electronic format. If you would like to continue receiving the PSCC newsletter please visit http://pscc.wyoming.gov and click on E-mail/Newsletter sign up. This will be a quarterly, electronic publication distributed after every Commission meeting.

# PSCC Members

#### Chairman

Kim Lee Homeland Security

#### Vice-Chairman

Bill Westerfield State Parks and Cultural Resources

#### Secretary

Jerry Kennedy County Government

Lanny Applegate State Fire Marshal

Lauri Wempen Emergency Medical Services

Bob Dean Dept. of Health

Kebin Haller DCI

Mark Harshman Fire Chief's

Billy Janes Police Chief's

Mark Joiner Federal

Dave Johnson Municipalities

Steve DeCecco Game and Fish

Danny Glick Sheriff's

Vernon Hill Tribal

Col. Sam Powell Wyoming Department of Transportation

Jimmy Siler Livestock Board

Bob Wyatt Public at Large

**Executive Director**John Hartwig

## Staff Support

**Bob Symons** 

# Vernon Hill—PSCC Tribal Representative

Governor Dave Freudenthal has appointed Vernon Hill as the Tribal Representative to the Public Safety Communications Commission. He is a member of the Eastern Shoshone Tribe and is currently the Emergency Management Coordinator for that Tribe. Vernon was a member of the Eastern Shoshone Tribal Council for ten years and served as Chairman of the Tribal Council for one term. He does numerous work with tribal youth and is involved with many community activities. He also serves on the Wind River Tribal College Board. The PSCC welcomes Vernon and we look forward to working with him.

### **WyoLink Status**

As of April 2, 2009 there are 41 WyoLink sites operational. Another four sites are completed and waiting for the licensing of frequencies before being activated. Construction is progressing on the Cheyenne Water Tank Site, completion expected within the next couple of months. As soon as weather permits, construction will begin on the Pinkham Mountain Site. WyoLink is working with the Forest Service on finalizing the leases for six sites, construction on these sites may extend into 2010. Idaho and Wyoming are working on a lease for a site in Idaho and construction in 2009 is anticipated. Acquisition of one BLM site is progressing and is expected to be constructed in 2009.

### **WyoLink Handbook**

Chapter XI Subscriber and System Support has been revised to define the responsibilities of the subscriber and WyoLink. A chart of tasks and equipment has been added to the Handbook that references maintenance tasks, equipment and who is responsible for the support and/or maintenance. The severity level for outages has been defined and a chart of the reporting and response times was included to provide guidance to the subscribers and WyoLink Support. WyoLink Support will create a Failure/Outage Log to assist with classifying problems and provide a knowledge base for future problems. Along with the Handbook revisions a WyoLink System and Subscriber Support Quick Reference Guide has been developed. The WyoLink Handbook and Quick Reference guide are available for download on the PSCC and WyoLink Websites – <a href="http://pscc.wyoming.gov">http://pscc.wyoming.gov</a> or <a href="http://pscc.wyoming.gov">http://pscc.wyoming.gov</a> or <a href="http://pscc.wyoming.gov">http://pscc.wyoming.gov</a>

The WyoLink Support Center is available 24/7 by calling 307-777-4885.

#### **PSCC Mission:**

The mission of the Wyoming Public Safety Communications Commission is to develop recommendations for policy and guidelines, identify technology and standards, and coordinate intergovernmental resources to facilitate statewide interoperability with emphasis on public safety.